



HPCI – what is it and who are we?

HPCI is the parent carer forum for Hertfordshire.

A **parent carer forum** is a group made up of parents and carers of children/young people aged 0-25 who have SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities). Forums work with local authorities, education, health services and other providers to make sure the services they plan and deliver really meet the needs of SEND children, young people and their families. When parents and professionals work together better informed decisions are made making the best use of people's time and resources. Parent Carer Forums are supported by the Department for Education. There are parent carer forums in 151 local authorities in England with over 90,000 members and they began in 2009 under the Aiming High programme.

HPCI is an independent not for profit organisation run by parent carers covering Hertfordshire and funded by the Department of Education and HCC. HPCI has a network of over 930 parents across Herts and links to a number of parent support groups. Our estimated reach is 5-6000 parent carers. The board of directors oversees HPCI and the current Chair is Helen Errington. We hold events, train and support parent representatives, gather parental feedback on a range of relevant issues and our parent representatives work with the Local Authority and Health on a diverse range of projects across education, health and social care. We are also developing a bank of webinars on a range of SEND topics. See our website for more information and where parents and carers can join our parent network.

HPCI is part of the Eastern Region Parent Carer Forum and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF). National parent representatives from NNPCF work on various projects across government departments such as DfE, DoH, DWP as well as NHS England and Public Health England. Parent carer forums are supported by the national charity Contact www.contact.org.uk

HPCI is **NOT** a family support or advocacy service, a SEND service provider or a carer focused organisation. We concentrate on getting services right for children and young people with SEND through concentrating on involvement with co-production as our gold standard. Involvement can take the form of providing parent reps at strategic meetings, arranging focus groups, helping design surveys and information for parent carers and providing speakers on a range of topics.

Contact us: via email at coordinator@hertsparentcarers.org.uk or phone: 07840 360245. Our part-time coordinator, Carol Kelsey arranges all our involvement activity.

More about parent participation and good practice examples can be found at -

<http://www.contact.org.uk/get-involved/parent-carer-participation/> also at <http://www.nnpcf.org.uk/>

www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk

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